[16th August 1956

Sri V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR: In certain places, the department is doing some work.

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI: It is proposed to improve the canal and the scheme is there to be worked out. Investigation has just been started. Things will be remedied if they are shabby now.

Sri K. VINAYAKAM: The proposed deepening of the Buckingham canal south of Madras by two feet will not be enough since there are pilgrims who travel through this canal from Madras to Tirukalikunram and Mahabalipuram. Will the Government, therefore, take steps to deepen and widen the canal from Madras to Mahabalipuram so that cheap transport facilities may be available to the poor people?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI: The matter is only in the stage of investigation. Of course, I shall take the opinion of experts in the matter and see whether deepening upto two feet will be sufficient; if it is not, necessary steps will be taken to alter it.

Sri M. R. RAMACHANDRAN: The Buckingham canal as it is today is not useful. Far from being useful, it more often acts as an obstruction to the villagers nearby situated between the canal and the sea. In view of this, will the Government at least see that the canal is closed, if they cannot afford better facilities for traffic on the canal and to the villagers living nearby?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI: It is not proposed to close the canal. We want to have it and make it available for navigation. After the investigation is completed and the schemes for improvement, etc., are taken up, we will be in a better position to understand and appreciate the entire problem.

Trolley bus service in the City

*107 Q.—Sri N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any communication from the Centre suggesting investigation into the possibility of introducing trolley buses in the City of Madras during the year 1955–56; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN: (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India wanted the Madras Government to conduct a preliminary survey on the feasibility of introducing trolley buses in the City of Madras in order to arrive at a decision whether operation of buses on electricity was cheaper than the operation of buses on diesel oil.

(b) The Government considered that the question of conducting a preliminary survey of running trolley buses may be dropped and the Government of India have been informed accordingly.

Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : As a first step, will the Government try to introduce some trolley buses on an experimental basis in the City?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : We cannot try it because the help that is proposed by the Government of India is quite inadequate. The experts who promised to help us are not coming forward now and even if they can be persuaded to come, the cost of their coming from England is higly prohibitive. The firm which offered to give us free service now demands the cost of service. In view of all these, we have decided not to embark upon this experimental programme.

Abolition of the cycle-tax in the City

* 108 Q.—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state why the Government declined to ratify the decision of the Corporation of Madras to exempt cycles from the half-yearly tax of Rs. 2 each?

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI : The Government did not decline to approve the proposal of the Corporation Council to abolish the cycle-tax in the City, but having regard to its financial position, the Council was informed that unless it suggested a method of augmenting its resources by not less than an amount equivalent to the loss involved in its proposal in some other way, which would press less hard on the people, the Government were not prepared to approve the proposal. The Corporation having fulfilled the above condition substantially, the Government have since approved the proposal of the Council to abolish the tax with effect from 1st April 1956.

* 109 Q.—Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the reasons for rejecting the proposal submitted by the Corporation of Madras during the year 1956 for the abolition of cycle-tax in the City?

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI : The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 108.

Sri K. VINAYAKAM : What is the total revenue which the Corporation of Madras gets under this head?

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI : Two lakhs of rupees.